FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION
(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1

C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854

Telephone: 406-240-4824

D. Contact Person: Ryen Neudecker

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): United States Forest Service-Amber Kamps District Ranger

Mailing Address: 1569 US HWY 200

City: Lincoln State: MT Zip: 59639

Telephone: 406.362.7000

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: South Fork Poorman Creek Fish Passage/Water Quality Improvement Project

River, stream, or lake: South Fork Poorman Creek & West Fork SF Poorman Creek

Location: Township 13N Range 7W Section 32

County: Lewis and Clark

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to improve migratory corridors, water quality and instream habitat conditions for pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.

C. Brief Project Description:

South Fork Poorman is a second-order tributary to Poorman Creek in the upper Blackfoot Watershed that supports pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. Poorman Creek was designated as critical bull trout habitat in 2010 and is a high priority tributary to the upper Blackfoot River as designated in Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks "Integrated Stream Restoration and Native Fish Conservation Strategy for 182 streams in the Blackfoot Basin, Montana". This project has been identified as a priority under the ***Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program***—a program identified in 2009 by the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. Habitat evaluations throughout South Fork Poorman Creek show the drainage has been negatively impacted by road location and undersized stream crossings. Several fords are present and sediment levels in spawning gravels are substantially elevated over what would be expected in relatively pristine streams (an average level of 41.2% fine sediment (less than 6.4 mm) from 24 samples). Streams with little to no disturbance on portions of the Helena Forest have been found to have substrate sediment levels averaging around 30% indicating the 41% level in the South Fork is substantially elevated over what it could be if sediment delivery were to be reduced. As another example, a recent road/erosion and sediment delivery evaluation conducted in the project area projected sediment delivery to the South Fork from the segment of road to be re-routed is 0.36 tons per year.

This project involves relocating 2,400 feet of road out of the floodplain impacting South Fork Poorman Creek. The new road location will eliminate five stream crossings, specifically four fords and an undersized culvert that is a barrier to fish passage, and replace those with a single crossing on the West Fork of South Fork Poorman Creek capable of handling a 100-year flood event following stream simulation methods and principles. The bed and banks of the stream at each crossing site will also be restored and the existing road impacting the drainage will be decommissioned. This project will correct the current road drainage problems, eliminate delivery of excessive sediment, provide for fish passage and restore the natural channel morphology each of the impaired crossing sites.

To determine design parameters for the proposed structure on the West Fork of South Fork Poorman Creek, a basic topographic and hydraulic field survey was conducted to locate key physical features within the area of the planned crossing location. A long profile, stream cross-sections, pebble counts, and general geomorphologic parameters were collected. The new structure dimensions were sized based on stream characteristics collected from the reference reach and hydraulic analysis. The hydraulic capacity of the structure was analyzed to ensure that it satisfies a 100-year flood event. Reference reach data collected indicated that bankfull width is close to six feet. To meet Stream Simulation guidelines, our new structure width will be 18' long to accommodate bankfull and an appropriate floodplain. Please refer to attached map, photos and design.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: This project will improve fish passage, water quality and instream habitat conditions on 2.6 miles of SF Poorman Creek and WF SF Poorman Creek.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): $ 16,000

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): $ _____ In-kind $ 3,300
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): $ 114,345 In-kind $
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: $ 136,645

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

As previously mentioned, sedimentation from the poorly located road system is impacting the drainage. Undersized culverts are also hindering fish passage. This project will improve water quality and migratory corridors for native trout.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by providing off-site recruitment to the Blackfoot River and angling opportunities on-site. Poorman Creek enters a portion of the Blackfoot River that receives high angling pressure.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by increasing wild trout habitat in the Blackfoot River drainage. The public also has legal streamside access via adjacent USFS lands.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The USFS has committed to maintaining the bridge for their life expectancy. The proposed bridge structure will be essentially maintenance-free structures and the life expectancy is estimated at 75 to 100 years.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of a westslope cutthroat and bull trout stream. Public benefits include: 1) improved water quality (sediment reductions) on-site and downstream, and 2) contribute to the recovery of a species of special concern and threatened species.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

Photos 1-2: Existing undersized stream crossing structure and example of ford impacting South Fork Poorman Creek.